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OA/ID Number:	25941
Folder ID Number:	25941-008

Folder Title:
Meet the Press, 2/22/76

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Meet the Press

STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

DATE February 22, 1976 12:30 PM CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Full Text

BILL MONROE: Our guest today on Meet the Press is George Bush, the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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MONROE: This is Bill Monroe inviting you to Meet the Press with George Bush, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Bush has been in his new job at the CIA for three weeks. He was formerly U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador to China, and before that, Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He's a former Texas congressman and unsuccessful candidate for the Senate from that state.

We'll have the first questions now from Ford Rowan of NBC News.

FORD ROWAN: Mr. Bush, the President's new program for the intelligence agency seeks to prevent leaks and protect secrets by making it a crime for government employees to leak information about intelligence sources and methods. While the legislation is not -- would not impose criminal penalties on the news media, a reporter who received leaked information would be an eyewitness to a crime and could be forced to reveal his sources before a grand jury, or go to jail.

Now, at issue, of course, is whether this new procedure could result in future cover-ups of abuses and crimes by the CIA. Would you be willing to endorse legislation, which has been endorsed by your predecessor, William Colby, which would permit reporters to claim a privilege and not reveal their sources to government investigators?

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DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH: I don't think there's anything in the new legislation that would change the liability or the potential liability of a newsman. And I'm not a lawyer; I wish I were in this job. My predecessor is a very able lawyer. And so I would have to consult our own attorneys about that.

But I think the point I'd like to make, Mr. Rowan, is that there's no additional exposure for news people because of this proposed legislation or because of the regulations that I am instructed to promulgate under the order.

ROWAN: Mr. Bush, the Attorney General has said that he would be willing to call reporters before grand juries and question them about their sources. And the change, of course, is now they would be asked about a crime that they were an eyewitness to.

Do you think that this could lead to future cover-ups, like, for example, the story that appeared 14 months ago in The New York Times that led to the investigation of domestic spying? Would anyone in the government have been willing to leak that information if they thought that a grand jury could find out their identity?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, the -- there's no change in -- I think you're referring to the Hersh story -- under this. The thing that is involved is sources and methods, and that will continue to be involved, but that is not what was happening under the Hersh story. So I see no change in that happening under the legislation that is proposed by the President.

But you see, we want to -- I think we want to be darned sure the sins of the past are eliminated, but equally sure that this intelligence system can operate with secrecy in the future. That's our objective -- fairness; and I think we can do it.

ROWAN: Well, Mr. Bush, certainly Operation Chaos, which involved spying on American citizens, was a method; and certainly NSA surveillance of electronic communications of American citizens is a method; and certainly Americans are worried that their government is spying on them. Now, if...

DIRECTOR BUSH: And I think the main thing to remember, Mr. Rowan, as you study that order is that those things are eliminated under this new proposal. Those things are specifically, by reference, eliminated.

MONROE: Thank you, Mr. Bush. We'll back with questions from our other panel members in just a minute.

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MONROE: Our guest today on Meet the Press is the new

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Director of the CIA, George Bush. In addition to Ford Rowan of NBC News, the other questioners on our panel today are Anthony Lewis of The New York Times, Crosby Noyes of The Washington Star, and Walter Pincus of The Washington Post. We'll continue the questions now with Mr. Lewis.

ANTHONY LEWIS: Mr. Bush, before we go on about intelligence, I'm just tempted to ask you a question on a different subject. From your experience as head of our liaison mission in Peking, why did the Chinese invite former President Nixon to go there?

DIRECTOR BUSH: You know, I was thinking of that coming over in the car. They do have a thing there they call Friends of China, and it's people from all walks of life; there's no formality to it, but it's an expression used. In my 14 months in China we heard over and over again that President Nixon was a friend of China. There also is a certain nostalgia connected with this timing of the visit because it was four years ago to this day, or yesterday, I guess, that he went there.

And then I'd say there's an additional point, that the Chinese recognize in former President Nixon somebody who presented to them our national self-interest, but also they saw in him somebody that was very understanding of the threat in the world, which they conceive largely to be the Soviets. Now, that's not to say that they don't think others feel that way, but they -- I think they -- I think it's a combination of affection for him, because of shifting the policy; and to them, he symbolizes a certain -- a certain ability to cope with -- with the Soviets.

And, you know, the President's visit was successful. And I think that this visit, on a very different, private basis, is good. I think they believe in our relationship; they want a good relationship with the United States.

LEWIS: You say you think the visit is good, and you spoke of symbols. But, of course...

[Confusion of voices]

LEWIS: Some in this country may well see a different symbol. He's a President who was disgraced, left office, received a pardon for any and all crimes he may have committed, and accepted the pardon. I mean do they understand what that means in this country?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I don't think that concerns them, because they say -- now, I'm not saying whether it should or not. Please don't put me down as -- I'm just trying to answer a question based on my experience in China. They say Watergate makes no difference. I mean that -- they actually quote -- that could be a direct quote;

it's awful close to it. So, you see, they aren't dwelling on Watergate.

Now, we can argue, and there's plenty of room for opinion, and I have my own personal opinion, which I don't plan to divulge to you, about how I feel about it. But I'm telling you how the Chinese feel about it.

LEWIS: Well, I'd better come back to the subject on which you may have some personal feelings you can divulge. And following up Mr. Rowan, you said that those things such as the domestic spying had been specifically eliminated in this program. But there are two things about that in the President's program, as I understand it. First of all, there are a lot of exceptions. Certain surveillance is allowed: corporations may be watched for this purpose or that, organizations may be infiltrated -- all domestically. And the larger question is really what Mr. Rowan was trying to get at, I think: How can you expect people to disclose that kind of wrong, if it does go wrong, if you frighten them not only with this criminal statute, but with this oath that you're asking of them, never to tell a secret, a classified intelligence...

DIRECTOR BUSH: That's a very good question. I'd say that most of the recommendations of the Rockefeller Commission have been addressed by this. I could read the list, but it's too long. Physical surveillance, unconsented search, and all these things are addressed. True, there are some exceptions.

But I think the main answer to your question, Mr. Lewis lies in the fact that there is oversight machinery within the Executive Branch, there will be more oversight machinery within the Legislative Branch, there is a better and more, I think, responsive system where people of -- of inspector generals and of general counsel activities in different agencies in the intelligence community to safeguard the people of this country against the kind of abuses that offended you and that offended me, without ruining our ability to keep secrets and without weakening our ability to keep a strong intelligence capability. We've got to do that, and some intelligence must be secret.

CROSBY NOYES: Mr. Bush, considering the problems that some of your predecessors have had as head of the CIA, what moved you to take on the job?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, I said this at the Senate hearings, and perhaps the times are a little cynical, that people may not understand this. I felt a sense of duty, a sense of obligation. I was asked to do it, without great background, of chance to debate it. I was in China at the time. And I feel that if you're called on to serve, you ought to serve. And it's a tough job. I've been very pleased at the quality of the people I've found out there already at the Langley Headquarters of the CIA, and indeed in the

whole intelligence community. And I recognize it's controversial, but I think it's fundamentally important. I think I can do it with integrity. And I was -- had inculcated into me early, as many people have, a sense of service. And it's no more complicated than that.

NOYES: Well, do you think you'll be successful in rehabilitating the CIA in the eyes of Congress and the American people?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I hope so, sir. I'm going to try, and I...

NOYES: How long do you plan to try?

DIRECTOR BUSH: ...excellent help there.

Well, I'll be there as long as they want me. I'm serving at the pleasure of the President, this President, the future President. And I would -- I'm approaching this as a real commitment, with no time frame. When I discussed this job with the President, there has been no thing: "I'll stay for a certain period of time." I'm approaching...

NOYES: Do you feel that there have been any serious lapses of direction in the previous management of the CIA?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Yes, sir. I think there are some things that are desperately needed to be changed. As soon as the Rockefeller Commission Report came out, the former Director very promptly put out regulations, addressing himself to specifics; many of the things he'd done before that. And, yes, there were clearly abuses; there were awful abuses.

The problem is, though, that we've heard -- because of the nature of the abuses, we've heard of the abuses, we've heard of some abuses that didn't prove to be abuses, and we have not, because of the nature of the business, heard of the successes.

So we do have a major problem, and yet I have the comforting feeling that the American people support the concept of a strong CIA and a strong intelligence community.

NOYES: Did the responsibility for the abuses reside primarily in the White House, or in the direction of the CIA itself?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I think there's plenty of blame to go around in lots of different areas, Mr. Noyes.

WALTER PINCUS: Mr. Bush, I'd like to come at the question of leaks from a different point of view. Last fall there were disclosures made to congressional committees about a covert operation by the United States in Angola, and your predecessor, Mr. Colby, and the Administration have been very critical that that information

was leaked out gradually to the press. A good deal of that leaking came about because at the very same time that Congress was told we were acting in Angola covertly, Administration officials were saying publicly that no such activity was taking place.

Now, as you look to the problem of leaking, do you see a necessity of the Administration to tell the truth in those areas, as a way of preventing leaks which come about because there have been misleading statements made to the public?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I think there is a necessity of telling the truth. It's very difficult in something involving covert operations. If they were fully disclosed, they would no longer be covert. So it's very difficult, I think, to have full disclosure. But certainly the concept of lying to the American people is not a valid one. And so I would hope that this problem will be ameliorated now by the more formalized procedure of the new oversight group, the special operations committee, the formal 40 Committee, I think close cooperation and contact with Congress, which is one of the things that's going to come out of this, and I'm fully supportive of that -- out of all these investigations will result in an elimination, or a minimization of the chance for that kind of thing.

But I really believe that we ought to avoid the posture of lying publicly. But there will be many times when we cannot be responsive to questions because of the nature of the work that we're involved in.

PINCUS: But you recognize there's a difference between being responsive and misleading.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Yes, sir, I do recognize that, and I hope I can conduct myself in this job with that in mind.

PINCUS: Now, following on in Angola, there was additional criticism that the release of the information about Angola led to Congress cutting off aid to Angola, and that therefore this was damaging to our national security.

The Administration now seems to be moving to a position of recognizing the very faction in Angola that we were at one time trying to undermine covertly.

Do you think, as a result of those leaks and the congressional actions, that our national security has been undermined because of Angola?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I don't know enough about all the details of Angola to say that. But I don't -- I would come down strongly against the leaks. I think the machinery -- let's look to the future instead of the past. I think the machinery is there to

safeguard the interests of the American people, through information to Congress. And I do feel that leaking covert operations is very damaging to the United States. But whether you could prove in a court of law that any specific case damaged the national security, I don't know.

It's clear to me, in looking at Angola, that Cuba and the Soviet Union, at this point, have come out ahead; that's clear. Now, what evolves in Angola from now or whether we can move in there diplomatically or something and improve the situation, that's for the future to determine.

MONROE: Mr. Bush, in Angola the Administration was engaged in a secret operation which it turned out the Congress opposed and, judging by polls, the people of the country were strongly opposed to. Wouldn't the U.S. have suffered less psychological damage there if the Administration had been required to go to Congress and seek approval for that covert operation and been told by Congress, "No, don't do it"?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, I'm not sure that it would have happened exactly that way. You see, the problem in Angola, Mr. Monroe, is not so much Angola itself, but it's the perception of national will in other areas, important areas, and with other countries: allies, friends and foes alike. And so Angola, you can't separate it from the broad perception of our will.

But in your specific question, I don't know that that would made a difference or not.

I think, under the new machinery, that we can avoid, even though we're not giving prior notice of covert operations, I think that through good will and communication with the oversight committees, protecting secrecy so it won't leak out if an operation starts, we can safeguard the interests of the American people, and I think allows the operation -- could be aborted by congressional action, either through resource control or through their taking it up with the President, which Congress has a wonderful way of doing, and they have a right to do that.

ROWAN: Mr. Bush, there's been a lot of controversy about the publication of the secret report of the House Intelligence Committee, which the House of Representatives voted to keep secret. I'd like to ask you: Is there anything, any damage that has resulted from the publication of that report? Can you tell us any specific instance of damage to national security by the people knowing what was in that report?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, there are certain things in there, but if I told you those specifics, that would highlight those and make things worse. But, yes, there are certain things in there that the intelligence community feel is damaging to the national security.

But the fundamental question is: the Congress overwhelmingly voted, by almost 2-to-1, that that report not be made public, and the report was made public, without fulfilling the contract that the Congress had with the President. And in my lexicon, that's just plain wrong. But that's a matter now for the Congress to determine, not the intelligence community.

ROWAN: Well, Mr. Bush, I'd like to return to the idea of what kind of damage was done. Certainly the Russians are smart enough to know what's in the report that they'd like to find out. The question is of national security. Are you defining national security to mean the reputation and prestige of the CIA?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, listen, come to think of it, I could make a case for that being important to national security. But I think there are many more specifics that, if I dwelt on them, would simply show the concern we feel about them; and we'll pass them along to the proper authorities, but I'm not going to do it here, or I'd be practicing the very thing I'm condemning in others.

LEWIS: Mr. Bush, you spoke of the issue in Angola as being one of demonstrating the national will. It strikes me as an odd concept that we should demonstrate it in secret. And really, the problem that Angola poses, as I -- it seems to me, is whether we should undertake a major foreign policy initiative, going into a whole new area of the world, in secret. Don't we usually, haven't we since 200 years ago, demonstrated our national will by doing things in the open? -- that big a thing, I mean.

DIRECTOR BUSH: I can't totally argue with your point. I think it's a very, very valid observation. And I can't say that, in retrospect, that what you're suggesting about open debate on it would be wrong. What I am saying, though, is that when we undertake something and we represent to others we're undertaking it, they're going to be watching to see if we have the follow-through, if we have the will.

But I think many instances -- frankly, I think you'll find less use of covert activity. I think there's an awareness now that it's much better to approve things in public.

But I'll say this: that somewhere in between sending a battalion of Marines into some place and doing nothing, you need to retain a covert capability. To the degree my judgment counts on covert, we're going to be very, very careful in the future. But to the degree some say, "Should we have covert at all, or not?" I say, Yes, this country must retain a flexible and a strong covert capability."

LEWIS: Mr. Bush, a few moments ago you said that we have to rely for controlling abuses not on law, in effect, but on better oversight by the Executive itself or Congress. Now, the President

has proposed something called an oversight board of three distinguished gentlemen. Without being unkind, I want to say that they're rather elderly, that they're part-time. And I just wonder whether you seriously think that such civilians can keep abreast of all the things that may go wrong or that, you've just told us a little earlier, did go wrong?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, let me go back and say that I don't -- I hope I didn't come down saying I don't think you need any law. I hope that this Executive Order and then the requests for legislation that have gone forward from the President, say in the field of assassination, I hope that will be passed.

So, yes we need law. But certainly you need, inside the Executive Branch, some machinery. I can't accept, in this day of discrimination, this age discrimination, 'cause a fellow like Mr. Murphy is a very able person, and I don't think you intended that.

But I would say that this machinery, where the inspectors general and the general counsel and individuals are encouraged, without going to the Director, say -- someone in the CIA, inspector general -- to go direct to the oversight board, is a good kind of machinery to have available. And you couple that with more oversight from the Congress, and we're moving towards responsibility on the part of people like ourselves, the CIA.

LEWIS: Mr. Bush, on law, you mentioned the one example where the President has proposed a law to limit covert actions; that's on assassinations. I wonder whether you would favor any other limit. For example, on September 15, 1970, President Nixon instructed one of your predecessors to encourage a military coup against the democratic system of another country, Chile. If someone said that to you now, ordered you to do that, would you do it? How do you feel about that?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I wouldn't do it. I'll tell you why I wouldn't say it, is because under the President's own order, this double-tracking, that that became referred to, is eliminated by a much more formalized action of the old 40 Committee, the Special Operations Committee now. Nobody can say, "Oh, I wasn't there," or, "I got a phone call." Everybody sits around and make a decision of this -- of this nature. But -- and the assassination thing has been ruled out by law.

So, I would hope -- and also, Mr. Lewis, you come back, in the final analysis, to judgment, to integrity, and you can't really define in a code of law everything that's going to guaranty perfection. And I respect the attempt that's been made to try to eliminate abuse. And yet if you say, "Are you guaranteeing there will be no abuse?" I couldn't say it in this field or any other field, by law.

MONROE: We have just about two minutes. Mr. Noyes.

NOYES: Mr. Bush, what do you think the chances are that Congress will enact some kind of legislation that subjects itself to criminal sanctions in the case of divulging official secrets?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I think there are two chances: slim and none.

NOYES: In that case, how effective do you think these...

DIRECTOR BUSH: I'm not sure they should, incidentally. I'm not sure they should, under the speech-and-debate clause. But those are the two chances I see.

NOYES: Well, in the case that we are up against now, the sanctions will be limited to a very few people in the Executive Branch of government, as I understand it.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, I understand that one of the proposals -- the proposals goes to the staff of congressional people, that they should be subject to penalties if they leak information. And so I think you're going to see some action in this whole secrecy thing, and I think it's carefully drawn.

But, I must confess, I favor it. You see, I don't understand the concept that people should feel, out of moral outrage or anything else, the right to go peddle secret documents, give them away or peddle them. I don't like that concept.

MONROE: Mr. Pincus.

DIRECTOR BUSH: If the classification is wrong, let's fix the classification system.

PINCUS: One short thing: The Senate committee that's setting up its own oversight committee has said that they want the right to rest with Congress to declassify material that comes from the President. Is the President going to approve that, or is he going to limit the amount of information he gets?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I'm not sure of the Administration position on that, Mr. Pincus. I don't know what they're going to do, sir.

MONROE: Did you feel some disappointment, Mr. Bush, when the President ruled you out as a vice presidential candidate?

DIRECTOR BUSH: No, but I felt some disappointment -- we've sat here for 30 minutes and nobody talked about the reform of the intelligence community and how I hope this machinery is going to make for better intelligence. We've talked about one other subject.

But, no, I didn't feel any disappointment on that. I knew -- look, I didn't see any great advantage in this in accepting it. I responded to Mr. Noyes, and I don't see any politics; I rule it out. I'm not a politician as of now.

MONROE: Thank you very much, Mr. Bush, for being with us today on Meet the Press.

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M E E T T H E P R E S S

America's Press Conference of the Air

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February 16, 1976

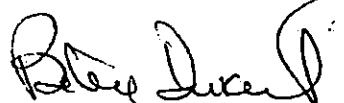
Dear Mr. Bush:

This is to confirm the arrangements we have made for you to be interviewed on MEET THE PRESS, Sunday, February 22.

We will do the program from NBC, 4001 Nebraska Avenue, N.W., Studio A, and we will appreciate your arriving there no later than 12:00 Noon. We will be on the air from 12:30-1:00 PM EST on the NBC Television Network. The program will be heard by recording at 9:06 PM that evening on the NBC Radio Network.

We are looking forward with pleasure and interest to having you again on MEET THE PRESS.

Sincerely,


(Mrs.) Betty Dukert
Producer

The Honorable
George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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PROGRAM Meet the Press

STATION WRC TV
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DATE June 29, 1975 12:30 PM

CITY Washington, D. C.

FULL TEXT

LAWRENCE E. SPIVAK: This is Lawrence Spivak inviting you to "Meet the Press," with the head of the CIA.

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SPIVAK: Our guest today on "Meet the Press" is the Director of Central Intelligence, William E. Colby. Mr. Colby began his career as an intelligence officer with the OSS during World War II. He later joined the CIA where he held a number of major posts before becoming Director in September, 1973.

We'll have the first questions now from Ford Rowan of NBC News.

FORD ROWAN: Mr. Colby, in May of 1973, the Inspector-General of the CIA compiled a report which showed illegal and improper activities on the part of the CIA. You did not at that time inform the White House or the Department of Justice. Instead, you began the destruction of records, including several collections of names which were part of the domestic surveillance program.

My first question is, on behalf of the agency, were you attempting to obstruct justice?

WILLIAM E. COLBY: No, Mr. Rowan, I was not. I was attempting to change the procedures of the agency, to make sure that they complied with the law in the future and to eliminate any holdings we had that we should not have had.

ROWAN: Why was the White House not informed?

COLBY: I think there was just a misunderstanding as to why that wasn't done. We did inform the then chairman, acting chairman of our oversight committees in the Congress. We then issued a series

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of directives very specifically instructing our people how to conduct their affairs in the future so that there would be no further violation of law. And in that situation, I thought it best to let the misdeeds of the past sit quietly. I did not see that there was anything serious enough in there to warrant prosecution against any individual.

ROWAN: You mention informing members of Congress. Did they take any substantive action or did they let the matter just lie?

COLBY: At least one of them asked a lot of additional questions and sought further assurances that no further action would be taken.

ROWAN: Mr. Colby, you indicated that on your own, you decided that there should be no prosecution. Under which authority did you act?

COLBY: I did not see enough that warranted to me a request to the Department of Justice to prosecute. The question never came up in a direct form.

SPIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Colby. We'll be back to introduce our other panel members and continue the questions in just a minute. But first, this message from our alternate sponsor.

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SPIVAK: We're ready now to resume our interview on "Meet the Press." Our guest is William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence. You've just met Ford Rowan of NBC News. The other questioners on our panel today are James J. Kilpatrick of the Washington Star syndicate; Leslie H. Gelb of the New York Times; and Thomas B. Ross of the Chicago Sun Times.

We'll continue the questions now with Mr. Kilpatrick.

JAMES J. KILPATRICK: Mr. Colby, under the 1949 act, the CIA is exempt from the usual accounting procedures that apply to the budget and personnel of every other agency of the government. Is there really any point in maintaining such absolute secrecy over public funds being spent by your agency?

COLBY: Mr. Kilpatrick, early in the history of CIA, we exposed about half of our budget to GAO audit. Later on, the GAO determined that it felt that it could not conduct an adequate audit of half of it if they did not know the whole. There are certain things, of course, in our clandestine activity that must be kept from public exposure and even the risk of public exposure.

KILPATRICK: Mr. Colby, I can understand why the details of your budget might well be kept secret. But why is it necessary to conceal from the American people whether you're spending one billion, two billion, five billion, or whatever the sum is?

COLBY: Mr. Kilpatrick, in 1947, the weapons expenditures of the Atomic Energy Commission consisted of a one line item. Last year they consisted of fifteen pages of detailed explanation. I think it is inevitable that if you expose the single figure you will immediately get a debate as to what it includes, what it does not include, why did it go up, why did it go down, and you will very shortly get into a description of the details of our activities.

KILPATRICK: It's a political reason, is it not, sir, that your budget would be especially vulnerable to being cut by members of the Congress who oppose the agency?

COLBY: Oh, I don't think so. I think the responsible members of the Congress would support a good intelligence service and a good intelligence program. And I think we have the best in the world.

SPIVAK: Mr. Gelb.

LESLIE GELB: Mr. Colby, would the 1947 act that established the CIA prohibit the CIA from collecting intelligence or providing support to collect intelligence within the United States on domestic individuals or groups?

COLBY: Yes. The act says clearly that the agency will have no subpoena, police, law enforcement powers or internal security functions. Now that does not mean that the agency can do nothing in the United States. It can do certain things related to foreign intelligence within the United States.

GELB: Well, when you appeared before various congressional committees....

COLBY: Many.

GELB: ...in the -- in the -- "many" is right -- in the wake of the disclosures about CIA collection of ten thousand or more dossiers, of bugging and surveillance and whatnot, you did not refer to these activities as illegal. In fact, you said they were not illegal; they were merely missteps. How do you reconcile that congressional testimony with what you just said now?

COLBY: I have said that they were wrong. I think "wrong" is a word that covers those few missteps and misdeeds that CIA has conducted over twenty-eight years....

GELB: Does "wrong" mean "illegal?" Does "wrong" mean "illegal?"

COLBY: Sometimes it does. Sometimes it merely means that we were outside our charter, although there's nothing otherwise illegal about the activity.

GELB: Does outside the charter mean that it was illegal?

COLBY: It means that it is wrong for CIA to do it....

GELB: Well, was it illegal....

COLBY: It was not necessarily a crime that it be done, but it was wrong for CIA to do it.

GELB: Was it illegal for the CIA to develop and collect these ten thousand and more dossiers?

COLBY: It was not illegal to collect them all. The allegation against CIA was that it conducted a massive, illegal domestic operation during the Nixon administration. The operation began in the Johnson administration. It was not massive. As you will note on page 149 of the Rockefeller Commission Report, it referred to three agents who were wrongly used. There was a collection of paper also collected, mainly FBI reports and newspaper clippings.

It was improper to collect some of these things. But I think that the word "wrong" covers both the actions which technically may have been illegal and the things that we had no right to do.

GELB: But the Rockefeller Commission itself labeled most of these activities as unlawful. That's their word.

COLBY: A number of our activities were unlawful in the past. There were a few. But not -- this particular program, I think, was not labeled as unlawful.

SPIVAK: Mr. Ross.

THOMAS B. ROSS: Mr. Colby, the Murphy Commission on Foreign Policy has just come out with a report saying the Forty Committee in the White House, which is supposed to supervise the CIA activities has been meeting only infrequently and informally. Douglas Dillon, who was a member of the Rockefeller Commission, said there had never been any real oversight of the CIA.

How, then, could a series of Presidents and a series of Directors of the Central Intelligence Agency tell the American people that the CIA was under tight control?

COLBY: Well, I think I'll let the Presidents speak for themselves.

The reason the Forty Committee has not met very often is that because during the fifties and sixties the CIA was engaged in many activities abroad of a political and paramilitary character. In the last few years, that activity has dwindled to almost nothing. We do very little of that work today abroad. And therefore, there is much less occasion for the Forty Committee to meet and discuss those activities.

ROSS: When you say "little," what do you mean by little? How many covert operations is the Agency conducting around the world right now?

COLBY: Well, I really cannot give you specifics or the figures. But I say it is a very small percentage of our total budget at the moment.

ROSS: Reverting to the control issue, John McCone said that while he was Director of the CIA, he didn't know that planning was going forward to assassinate Castro. You have said that you didn't know about many things going on in the CIA, including the fact that the Justice Department gave you the authority to control your own lawbreakers.

Doesn't that indicate once again that the CIA was out of control of even its own Directors?

COLBY: No, I don't think so. In any large organization -- and CIA is a large organization -- with activities all around the world, every detail will not necessarily be known. I learned of the arrangement with the Rockefeller Commission when I was apprized of a problem which might involve that. And it looked that it was not supportable to me, and so I discussed it with the Acting Attorney General, who withdrew that arrangement.

SPIVAK: Mr. Colby, as one who knows the CIA from long association with it and who, I assume, is dedicated to the security of this nation, will you give us your appraisal of whether the investigations have, on the whole, been good or bad for the country?

COLBY: Well, I think there're both goods and bads, Mr. Spivak. I think that the good is that we are in the process of updating the old image of intelligence that is carried by many Americans to the new reality of intelligence; that intelligence today is more than the old spy story or the TV spectacular on Saturday night. It now consists of an intellectual process of putting bits and pieces together, analyzing them, of collecting information from open sources wherever we can get them around the world, from technical capabilities, of which we, as Americans, have

developed perhaps the most impressive collection in the world; and also some clandestine activity, of course, against those closed societies that can pose a threat to our country.

On the bad side I think are the sensational and irresponsible leaks and discussions that go on so that the characterization of our intelligence apparatus still does suffer that old image. I am interested really in trying to focus on the seventies and eighties and forget about the fifties and sixties. But I'm having a hard time doing it.

SPIVAK: Mr. Colby, earlier this year you were reported as saying that exaggerated charges of improper conduct of the CIA had placed -- and these were your words -- "placed American intelligence in danger."

What do you consider the most exaggerated charges that have been made against the CIA?

COLBY: The massive, illegal domestic operation, and I think some other charges have been made which are totally out of context in the total picture. I think here we have a difficulty that is perhaps a difference of profession between the journalistic profession and the intelligence profession. We try to put the jigsaw pieces together to draw from them the whole picture and present the whole thing in proportion. I think the journalistic profession, because of the nature of its media, is inclined to focus on the individual jigsaw piece and to bring that as typical of the whole. And that has given me a great deal of difficulty.

SPIVAK: Now the charges that have been made against the CIA and the investigations themselves have really raised so many doubts in the minds of the American people, and many people believe that the organization ought to be abolished altogether and that if a new one is needed, why, a new one should be started. What's your reaction to that?

COLBY: Well, I think the CIA today -- as I said, it may have done some things in the past which were either mistakes or wrong. But the CIA today is the best intelligence service in the world. It has the most dedicated and talented group of people working for it of any intelligence service in the world. It's the envy of the foreign nations.

I think that any attempt to disband it would leave our nation vulnerable. In a world in which we now sit thirty minutes away from a nuclear missile aimed and cocked at us, in a world in which our economic resources can be throttled by hostile foreign nations, in a world in which nuclear proliferation can pose a danger to all of us, I think we need good intelligence. I think we've got it, and I think we should continue.

SPIVAK: Mr. Rowan.

ROWAN: Mr. Colby, I'd like to ask you something about not the CIA, which you administer; but in your role as Director of Central Intelligence, you oversee the entire intelligence community. And I would like to ask you if the National Security Agency regularly monitors telephone calls between foreign -- between American citizens and citizens in foreign countries?

COLBY: I think the National Security Agency's activities are known to include the following of foreign communications. I think that's all I would like to say about that.

ROWAN: What I'm trying to get at is to find out if in the course of their activities involving foreigners massive records are kept on the number of calls, the places calls are made to from this country by American citizens.

COLBY: I would defer to the Department of Defense for the answer to that.

SPIVAK: Mr. Kilpatrick.

KILPATRICK: But pursuing that for just a moment, sir, the Rockefeller Commission talked about communist intelligence efforts within the United States and said that the Soviet Union, we gather, is making extraordinary use of electronic technology, is monitoring and recording thousands of private telephone conversations within the United States.

Could you amplify that, sir?

COLBY: Well, the Soviet Union does have a very extensive communications intelligence effort around the world. You've seen their trawlers off our coasts. They follow our fleets when they move. They have an extensive effort of that kind....

KILPATRICK: Are they monitoring domestic telephone conversations, to your knowledge?

COLBY: There are an awful lot of antennae on top of the Soviet Embassy. And I think they are there for a purpose.

KILPATRICK: Your estimate was five hundred thousand intelligence operatives in the communist bloc nations. That was the estimate of the Rockefeller Commission. Is that your estimate also, sir?

COLBY: I think that's a close figure.

SPIVAK: Mr. Gelb.

GELB: Mr. Colby, the Rockefeller Commission seems to describe the Chaos operation of the CIA, the collection of the files and the bugging, surveillance, so forth, as large, illegal and domestic. Let me quote from their report. They said "The CIA exceeded its statutory authority in these operations." It said the operations were "a repository for large quantities of information on domestic activities of Americans." It talked about "the large number of activities and the veritable mountain of material."

Wouldn't this substantiate a charge of massive, illegal domestic operations?

COLBY: I don't think so. I think that the word "illegal" obviously does apply to certain of the activities. But as I indicated, the Rockefeller Commission found three agents whose work was illegal. I don't think that's massively illegal. Those three agents were improper. There's no question about it.

With respect to the files, as the Commission found after looking at our files, most of the files consisted of FBI reports and clippings from the newspaper. Now we -- in my opinion, we should not have kept all those. But in the period of the time that this was going on, when you have a quarter of a million people demonstrating outside of the White House, when you had four thousand bombings occur in one year in this country, I think there was considerable concern as whether this was indigenous or was being stimulated and supported by foreign intelligence or security services.

GELB: But your own study showed that these were not connected with foreign intelligence activities. And....

COLBY: And by studying it we found out that they were not connected. If we had not studied it, we could not make that finding.

GELB: But you can make that argument by saying you'd have to keep studying something forever to insure that it didn't have a foreign connection.

COLBY: No, I don't think you do. You respond to a present need, a present problem, a present danger. We terminated this operation a year and a half ago because the problem has gone away in great part. And consequently, there is not a reason for continuing that -- that kind of an effort to identify foreign links to American dissident organizations.

SPIVAK: Mr. Ross.

ROSS: Mr. Colby, Senator Church says that his intelligence committee has not been able to find evidence of an order from any President to the CIA to plan assassinations. Does that mean that the CIA was acting on its own in this area?

COLBY: Mr. Ross, I don't believe that I want to talk about the subject of assassinations. This is a very difficult and complex subject. Some of the facts are not well known or are not well recorded, and some of the degree to which various people within and outside of the Agency were a part of any such activity is not very clear. We have reported on this fully to the committees, and we will do so. But I do not think it appropriate for public discussion.

ROSS: Well, let me turn to another area then. The CIA placed the Shah of Iran back on his throne in the mid fifties. The Shah is now one of the principal reasons why we're paying a great deal more money for our oil.

In this instance as in others, mightn't it have been better to just allow events to take their normal course?

COLBY: And to allow the Communist Party of Iran to take over that country? I doubt that. I think you would have been stopped from the oil long before this.

ROSS: Would not -- would not oil possibly be cheaper in being bought from the communist countries? After all, we have engaged in some sort of an attempt to negotiate for natural gas from the Soviet Union. Mightn't that be a cheaper price than we're paying out of -- out of the Persian Gulf right now?

COLBY: In the mid fifties, the problem of communist expansion was a very great danger around the world. And we did a lot of things to prevent it.

In the seventies, we have begun a process of negotiation with a communist world which is itself divided in the Sino-Soviet split. You have a totally different strategic situation that we are facing today from the one we faced in the fifties.

SPIVAK: Mr. Colby, the public has been deeply concerned by the stories of CIA involvement in plotting to assassinate foreign leaders. Don't you think it would be better to release the full and true story lest rumors and speculation make it seem a lot worse than it is?

COLBY: No, Mr. Spivak, the instructions in the Agency are quite clear, that the Agency will not engage in, support or stimulate or condone assassination at this time. Those instructions have been issued by the Agency for several years now....

SPIVAK: We're talking about the past, though. We're talking about....

COLBY: We are talking about -- I do not think it useful

to our country to go into a great exposure of things that happened in the fifties and sixties. And I think that the subject had better -- best be settled by adopting a firm policy at this point not to do such activity and letting the past stay quiet.

SPIVAK: Well, may I take you to one thing that is happening now. Rumors are being spread that the CIA is somehow involved in attempts to get rid of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Can you categorically state that CIA....

COLBY: I categorically deny that.

SPIVAK: ...is not involved in any way in that?

COLBY: I categorically deny that.

SPIVAK: Mr. Rowan.

ROWAN: Mr. Colby, the Rockefeller Report said that one of the CIA's computer systems had information on three hundred thousand Americans in it. You have testified that the CIA maintains forty to fifty such record systems.

I'm wondering -- can you tell us how many Americans are in the CIA's computer files, or can you estimate that number?

COLBY: No, I can't, Mr. Rowan. We obviously have many, many Americans in our files -- applicants, people who had clearances, people who have reported to us, sources of what is going on abroad. We have large numbers of Americans in our files. There's a great overlap in them. And I am unable to come out with a total.

ROWAN: One quick follow-up question. Has the CIA computer system been used not just to keep files, but to do modeling and predicting to try to predict behavior of people?

COLBY: I do not believe so, no. I'm pretty sure that has not been used as a prediction. We obviously use computers a great deal in our business of analyzing material, storing it, retrieving it, and so forth. As to predictability of personal behavior, of human behavior, there have been some experiments I think in modeling to see whether patterns grow and whether similar behavior is followed in future times. But this is conducted under the strict rules applicable to this kind of research and development.

SPIVAK: We have less than two minutes. Mr. Kilpatrick.

KILPATRICK: Mr. Colby, the Murphy Commission has recommended that the CIA be re-named the Foreign Intelligence Agency. Would that help your public relations' problem?

COLBY: I think if you just changed the name, why, our friends of the press would quickly penetrate that as being sort of a cosmetic change and not a real one, although the word "foreign" I am all for. In my confirmation hearing, I suggested that you add the word "foreign" before the word "intelligence" wherever it appears in the act.

SPIVAK: Now, Mr. Gelb.

GELB: Mr. Colby, if you thought a member of the CIA was, say, leaking information to Mr. Spivak, would you be empowered under the law to surveil and wiretap and bug Mr. Spivak?

COLBY: No, absolutely not. And I would not be empowered under even the legislation I recommend to improve our secrecy. I would not be allowed to do anything with respect to an outsider. I would be allowed to follow within the agency the activities of one of our employees that I thought was in some way misbehaving. I have the same authority in that respect as the head of any governmental organization, like the Fish and Wildlife Service, to be responsible for his own employees and their behavior.

SPIVAK: Thirty seconds. Mr. Ross.

ROSS: Mr. Colby, the Rockefeller Commission suggested it might not be such a good idea to have a career man as the head of the CIA. Do you think that's a hint from the White House that you maybe ought to resign?

COLBY: Oh, I don't think that's a hint. I serve totally at the pleasure of the President, and he can turn his pleasure somewhere else any time he wishes. I will do my duty. As long as he thinks I'm useful, I will stay.

SPIVAK: I'm sorry to interrupt, but our time is almost up and we won't be able to get in another question and certainly not another answer.

Thank you, Mr. Colby, for being with us today on "Meet the Press."

COLBY: Thank you.



M E E T T H E P R E S S

America's Press Conference of the Air

2660 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

*announced
by hand
file*

February 26, 1976

The Honorable
George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear George:

This is to thank you very much indeed for your appearance on Meet the Press the other day. I thought your performance was characterized by a combination of qualities I have come to regard as Bushian (Georgian?): a foundation of firm opinion garnished with reasonableness. Did anyone ever tell you you'd do a good job as spokesman for a new-era CIA? Or as a witness before a congressional committee?

Seriously, I think the Ford Administration and the intelligence agencies (and the nation) are fortunate to have you in that job, and we were pleased to have you with us on Meet the Press. Checking the transcript, by the way, I found that the average length of your answers was pretty good, right around average. But I was struck by how long the questions were from three of those characters on the panel -- aiming, I guess, at providing the audience enough background to make somewhat complicated things intelligible.

February 26, 1976

Next time I hope we can get you on the program with a bit more exclusivity as applied to the previous week. In the meantime, I'd like to forget about those little problems, for which I feel I bear some responsibility, and resume what I like to look on as our normal friendship.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

Bill Monroe

BM:hhf

76-7786/A

May 28, 1976

Mr. Paul L. Offenhiser
42 N. Wise Avenue
Freeport, Illinois 61032

Dear Mr. Offenhiser:

Please pardon the long delay in replying to your letter of April 17th. You wrote me then, criticizing my appearance on Meet the Press, and asking how I could ever suggest punishing those who leak secret information.

"Openness" is a valid objective, but if we are to have a strong intelligence capability, there are and always have been certain secrets that cannot be made public. This has been true since George Washington's time.

Most people don't realize that we make full and total disclosure of our budget and of our activities to several committees of Congress. We do this very conscientiously and I am determined to work with the Congress in every way possible.

I served in the Congress and I respect the tripartite form of government, but where you and I apparently differ is that you feel no information should be kept from the public. I disagree. Do you think it would be right to publish the formula for the atomic weapons? Do you think it would be right to give the names of agents operating abroad so that they would be targets for assassination? Please think about these matters, and I promise to give consideration to your strongly held view that we should be as open as possible.

Yours very truly,



George Bush

DCI/kgf/28 May 1976

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AT MA SO 01 ES YAM

André Broussé

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1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the situation and the goals that need to be achieved.

1. The purpose of this document is to provide information regarding the proposed changes to the existing contract between the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

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Honorable George Bush
Administrator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Pop:

You did a superlative job on "Meet The Press" from start to finish. Your comments on service to country were enormously impressive but I thought you struck precisely the right tone throughout. You conveyed a high order of both intelligence and decency, and your candor did much to advance a more balanced understanding of the requirements and the responsibilities of the intelligence community.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Ludlow Ashley, M. C.

TLA:sr

P.S. Please see that my file is destroyed.

*ans by hand
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ER

March 15, 1976

Dear Burke,

It was most thoughtful of you to write to me about the Meet the Press show. I had the same degree of competitiveness on that Meet the Press show as one gets when he's about to get into a good tennis game.

It's been too long since I've been in Houston, but soon I will be down there. It would please me very much if we could do battle on the courts.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mr. Burke Baker, Jr.
P. O. Box 2538
Houston, Texas 77001

DCI/GB/dlg

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1 - ER



Burke Baker, Jr.
Executive Vice President

P. O. Box 2538
Houston, Texas 77001

March 10, 1976

The Honorable George Bush
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear George:

Seeing you on "Meet the Press" recently reminded me that I had not sent you this intended note to congratulate you and wish you well in yet another extremely important assignment and to welcome you back home.

I am confident you will handle the CIA in the same outstanding manner in which you have handled your other jobs and with the buffeting the CIA has taken the country needs someone like you there. In fact, I expect you to handle it as well as you handled those tough needlers on "Meet the Press," and that was a fine performance!

Fred says the Chamberses had a good visit with the Bushes in Washington recently and found you both in fine health and spirits. Fred and I have been doing a little business and talking a lot of tennis for the last couple of years but have not gotten around to playing with each other. If you come down this way maybe we can get together. I will get Rennie to hold me up, since you taught me some years ago not to believe any story you might come up with about having to substitute ping-pong for tennis in China or anything like that.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

BB:ir

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Burke Baker'.

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

Executive Registry

76-7136/A

16 MAR 1976

Mr. Richard T. Blow, III
7831 S. E. 40th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear Mr. Blow,

Thank you for your friendly letter of February 22 about "Meet the Press." It was good of you to write.

There are a number of persons around who don't agree with me, but I am pleased to realize that good folk such as yourself who don't always agree are kind enough to send me a note of encouragement every now and then anyway.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush
Director

Orig - address

1 cy - SCI

1 cy - Asst/SCI

1 cy - ER

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MAR 12 3 27 PM '76

EB

EB

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Mr. Richard T. Row, III
7831 S. E. 40th Street
Forter Island, WA 98040

Dear Mr. Row,

Thank you for your friendly letter of February 22 about "Meet the Press." It was good of you to write.

There are a number of persons around who don't agree with me, but I am pleased to realize that good folk such as yourself who don't always agree are kind enough to send me a note of encouragement every now and then anyway.

Sincerely,

George Bush

George Bush
Director

MAR 16 3 54 PM '76

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MAR 11 10 11 AM '76

ER

February 27, 1976

Dear Stan,

Thanks for your recent note. I would be glad to see you when you come down in April. Please call Jennifer Fitzgerald, 351-6363, when you hit town.

The new job is fascinating.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mr. Stanley Flink
Woodbridge Hall
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

25 MAR 01 1976
RAM

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06520
Yale University
Woodbridge Hall
Mr. Stanley Fink

George Bush



Sincerely,

Warm regards,

The new job is fascinating.

When you hit town,

Please call Jennifer Fitzgerald, 321-8383.

Glad to see you when you come down in April.

Thanks for your recent note. I would be

Dear Stan,

February 22, 1976

MAR 4 10 49 AM '76

ER

Yale University New Haven, Connecticut 06520

WOODBRIDGE HALL

Director of Alumni Communications
and Public Information

Ditah

Monday

Dear Poppy-

You did exceptionally well
on "Meet the Press" and I
congratulate you.

I plan to be in Washington
in April and would like very
much to visit with you.

Best wishes in your new
assignment. I spend much
of my time talking to, and
dealing with the media. Perhaps
we could swap some scars.

All the best
Sincerely Frank

March 3, 1976

Dear Ming,

Just a quickie to say thanks for your
thoughtful letter. Life goes on--full and
fascinating, and though I miss politics,
we are very happy.

Bar sends her love.

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mrs. F. Richard Hsu
1915 Winding Brook Way
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Mrs. F. RICHARD HSU
1915 Winding Brook Way
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

February 27, 1976

The Honorable George Bush
5161 Palisade Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear George:

Congratulations on the superb, "A-1" interview you gave
on "Meet the Press" last Sunday! I am not the least bit
surprised -- just tremendously impressed and proud.

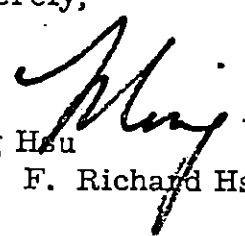
Although the official national ratings for the program are
not yet available, NBC estimated that roughly four and a
half million people watched you on television that noon.
The great majority of the viewers were favorably impressed
with the new CIA Director.

Incidentally, Dick and I appreciate the kind, gracious
comments you made about Bob Murphy on the program.
Bob is an old friend of ours and a member of the Board
of Advisors to the China Institute in America.

Congratulations again -- and all best wishes for continued
success in your new job. Hope to see you soon.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,


Ming Hsu
(Mrs. F. Richard Hsu)

MH:eca

ER

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

March 2, 1976

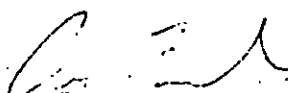
Dear Mr. Martin,

Just a quick note to thank you for your thoughtful letter and your kind words about my recent television appearance.

The country needs a vital CIA and I'm proud to be working here.

Thanks again,

Sincerely,


George Bush
Director

Mr. C. A. Martin
P. O. Box 1174
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

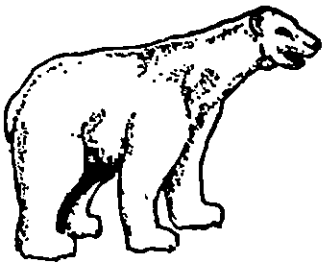
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*and. farm
letter. 2 March 1976*

February 22, 1976

*K
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short*

Mr. George Bush, Commissioner
Counter Intelligent Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner Bush:

To say the least. Today has been a very experiencing day. As a beginning I read through most of the 183 pages of The Tennessean to see more crime, complaints on Nixon, the life of Nancy Reagan, 3½ pages of "help wanted". "Knowing" all the time its President Ford's fault for the unemployment. Enough for the paper.

Next, I listened to Dr. Bill Sherman, Pastor, Woodmont Baptist Church of Nashville. (He doesn't agree with me either. He thinks I should attend my own church instead of listening to him.) One of his punch lines was that TV Prime time should be called Crime time. Only thing I know worse than Prime (Crime) time is National news time!

Then I listened to you being batted around on Meet The Press. However, I felt your closing statement about sitting there for 30 minutes and not one question was directed to you about the future of C.I.A. I told my wife how I wished more quest had the guts to "kick it back at them" Congratulations!

It doesn't bother me at all to write the President, my Senators, Commissions. I get answers and some action. I do my best to get my friends to do the same but they want.

However, by copy of this letter (as requested by Bill Sherman) to NBC, CBS, ABC I'm putting them on notice that for every "crime time show," I'll do my best to boycott the advertisers.

Good luck on your new job, but at least today,

Have A Good One,

C. A. Martin
C. A. Martin

CAM/jb

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

76-1272/A

March 2, 1976

Dear Mr. McCarty,

Just a quick note to thank you for your thoughtful letter and your kind words about my recent television appearance.

The country needs a vital CIA and I'm proud to be working here.

Thanks again,

Sincerely,


George Bush
Director

Mr. Dan McCarty
2402 Rivera
Wichita, Kansas 67211

DCI/kgf/2 March 1976

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*ans. by [unclear]
letter
AREA 316 265-7023
March 2, 1976*

DAN McCARTY
2402 RIVERA
WICHITA, KANSAS 67211

Febr. 22 1976

*K
+ handle him*

Mr. George Bush,
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington.

Dear Sir,

Just let me say that I greatly admired
the manner in which you defended the government
from the attacks of the press in the TV newcast
on NBC today.*

Sincerely,

Dan McCarty

No answer needed.

I will pick her up at 7:50
K or Linda pls call MMB

ER
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2000 10-10-76

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[Handwritten note]

March 3, 1976

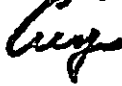
Dear Obie,

Just a quickie to thank you for your thoughtful letter of February 26th, and also your kind words about my Meet the Press appearance.

Like you, I have a quiet feeling inside that the tide is slowly changing and people are beginning to realize that this country needs a strong CIA.

I'll let you know when we're next up your way--I hope it's soon.

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mr. Ernest D. Obermeyer
1095 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10028

2/26/76

Dear George;

It's been a great ten days for "Bush Watchers." Wow! 2 pictures on the front page of the Times, a newsweek story and picture and Mut the Boss. It's too bad that you aren't running for something because in this short period I think you're outpulling all the candidates in media visibility.

I'm not a regular Mut the Boss viewer but I do see it occasionally and, George, I think you controlled the scene better than any one I can remember who has appeared on the program. Your answers to all the questions were positive and complete enough that they seemed to shut off further questions along the same lines. So often the panel seems to get the man they're interviewing on the defensive. I was delighted to see that it didn't happen in this case. I can't imagine how you could have come

across any better if the panel had been rehearsed in advance.

It was great seeing you in New York and I know Benny was sorry she missed you. We had a pleasant weekend in a very cold, damp Paris but I'm glad I don't have to pay their prices on a regular basis. Now I'm back to domestic travel - Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Chicago in the next three weeks. At my Andover meeting Whit Stevens told me you were going to be speaking here in New York in a few weeks. If it's a public gathering let me know as if I'm in town I'd like to come and applaud.

George, I sense that the tides of opinion are shifting in yours and the administration's favor on security policy. I sense that Senator Church is flogging a dead horse and coming across as a "holier than thou" hypocrite as a result. I do hope that as this settles down you will be able to use the media to positive advantage. It seems to me that when the Russians or anyone else does something underhanded or tries to launch a power move, if it

THE OBERMEYERS

1095 PARK AVE., NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10028

at all possible, it is to your advantage
to go public with it. The more the
average American knows what's going
on in the world the more he is going
to appreciate the need for a strong
intelligence capacity as well as a strong
defense. I have always believed that many
of the liberal Democrats are attempting to
paint a picture of the world as all of us
wished it were but unfortunately that's not
the way it is. Looking at the world thru
rose colored glasses limits one's vision
and perception.

Give our best to Barbara and Fred - it's
nice to know a dog in as much trouble as Tiffany.
Let me know when you're going to be here again.

Regards
Chae

NBC

National Broadcasting Company, Inc.

Thirty Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020 212-247-8300

Herbert S. Schlosser
President

February 24, 1976

File

The Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

Thank you for being able to join us again
on "Meet the Press." This was your third ap-
pearance on the program, and your willingness
to share insights from your new post with NBC's
audience was greatly appreciated.

Cordially,

Herbert Schlosser

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

March 2, 1976

Dear Dudley,

Just a quick note to thank you for your thoughtful letter and your kind words about my "Meet the Press" appearance.

This job is complicated in these tough times, but the CIA is full of dedicated and able people, and I'm darn lucky to be in this new assignment.

Thanks again for writing. Love to Tina.

Sincerely,



George Bush

The Honorable Dudley C. Sharp
506 Bank of Southwest Bldg.
Houston, Texas 77002

DUDLEY C. SHARP
508 BANK OF SOUTHWEST BLDG.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

February 23, 1976

ex A. Fove
Secretary

K
Thank you
love to Tina

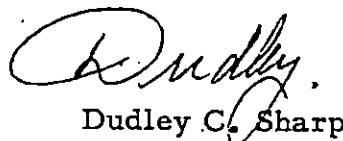
The Honorable George H. W. Bush
Director
C.I.A.
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear George:

Tina and I watched your performance
on "Meet the Press" yesterday and we both were
terribly impressed. Your statements were extremely
forthright and convincing.

Tina joins me in sending our very best
wishes to you and Barbara.

Sincerely,


Dudley C. Sharp

DCS:m

75 FEB 24 11 51 AM

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

TO THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT
SUBJECT: [illegible]

100-111111

MAR 4 10 48 AM '76

ER

5x6 [illegible]

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K
100-111111

76-7206

March 2, 1976

Dear Mike,

Thank you so much for your kind words
about my recent Meet the Press appearance.

I appreciate you taking the time to
send them along.

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mr. Michael J. Smylie
General Security Systems, Inc.
Suite 311, Smylie Times Bldg.
Roosevelt Boulevard and Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19152

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

GENERAL SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC.
Suite 311 Smylie Times Bldg.
Roosevelt Boulevard and Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

K
February 22, 1976

George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Mike

Dear George:

Your appearance on today's "Meet the Press" was magnificent.
The manner in which you handled the questions by the panel of
prosecutors concerning former President Nixon, and reference
to the ages of the members of the Intelligence Oversight Board
was a masterpiece. You had complete control.

With men of your caliber directing the destiny of our country,
my fears and concern for its future status has subsided
somewhat.

I am proud to have you as a friend.

Sincerely yours,

Mike
Michael J. Smylie

MJS/az

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RE

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

ER

MAR 4 10 48 AM '76

March 2, 1976

Dear Jim,

Just a quick note to thank you for your
kind words about my recent television appearance.

The job is full and fascinating and I'm
proud to be working here.

Thanks again,

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mr. Jim Wade
3111 Republic National Bank Tower
Dallas, Texas 75201

JIM WADE
3111 REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK TOWER
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201
AREA CODE 214 741-4301

K

2/23/76 thank
you

Dear George,

Enjoyed your TV appearance
immensely. Glad you got the
best of those wolves! We're
Proud of you.

Let me know if I
can ever be helpful.

Regards to Barbara
and the kids.

Sincerely

Jim

March 2, 1976

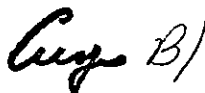
Dear Lois,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. I appreciate your kind words.

I have been in very close touch with my able friend, Congressman Sonny Montgomery, who is head of the special committee on MIG's. I can assure you he takes his work seriously.

We are glad to be back in Washington and I'm glad to be in this challenging job.

Yours very truly,



George Bush

Ms. Lois Belcher Watkins
410 Bonita Avenue
Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

February 23, 1976
410 Bonita Avenue
Port Charlotte, Fla. 33952

Mr. George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

Another clipping for your news file. Watched you on Face the Nation yesterday and want to commend you for an excellent presentation, as usual.

I'm undecided whether Congratulations or condolences are in order, for you have taken on a tremendous task; but I do applaud you for accepting the assignment and in the spirit of service to your nation which point you made so well yesterday.

If anyone can bring renewed faith, faith in the function and the absolute necessity for the existence of the CIA, and a sense of integrity to allow for the flexibility of activities that cannot at all times, wisely, be made public - you are the person who I believe can and will do it.

My very best wishes to you!

I am leaving tomorrow to visit my son's wife and daughter in California. Have not seen them in over 2 years and Paula feels that is too long for Shannon not to know her grandmother better. Never any further word of our Glenn, and his status remains MIA. He was elevated to the rank of Major Glenn Belcher, USAF, on November 1, 1975. We feel that the naming of a Select Committee of Congress has been a very helpful move for those of us who wait, and that they are making progress. We are grateful to President Ford for this.

I remarried in September but my husband passed away on Jan. 6 so after my visit in California I expect to return here and take on some part time activities again- possibly some in political support for which I did not find time previously. I am too work-oriented to retire gracefully, I guess, and so fortunate to have excellent health I have a bit of that need to serve that has "bounced" you around so much in these years between that campaign in Texas and today.

My best to the family. I hope you all are happy to be back in D.C.

Sincerely,

Lois Belcher Watkins
Lois Belcher Watkins

We're glad to have you home from China.

ER

MAR 4 10 48 AM '76

Bush: Congress Could Abort Bad CIA Covert Operations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even though Congress might not have prior knowledge of secret operations, it could still abort bad ones, Central Intelligence Director George Bush said Sunday.

Bush said that although President Ford opposes informing Congress of covert operations before they are undertaken, bad operations could be halted later, either through a cutoff of resources or by taking the matter up with the president.

The interests of the American people can be served and protected through good will and communications with the committees supervising intelligence operations, he said.

Bush, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," said he expects that secret activities will be carried out less in the future "but we must retain our covert capability."

He said he hopes Congress will approve the recommendations made last week by Ford to increase supervision of the intelligence community inside the executive branch coupled with more monitoring by Congress.

Asked if Ford's proposal to make it a crime to leak secret documents might not have the effect of forcing newsmen to disclose sources as witnesses

to a crime, Bush said he doesn't see any change from the past for reporters.

There is a need to eliminate the sins of the past, he said, but also to be able to operate the intelligence community with secrecy.

He acknowledged that there had been abuses committed by intelligence agencies in the

past, but said the changes proposed by Ford will eliminate these.

And he added that while he feels the government should avoid lying publicly, there will be occasions when it cannot be fully responsive to questions because of the nature of intelligence operations.

March 3, 1976

Dear Dorothy,

Thank you for your kind words about Meet the Press and your kind words of support. The new job is full and fascinating and I'm loving every minute of it. Barbara and I both loved China and we miss it enormously, but this is important work and I am very lucky to be here.

Thanks again for writing,

Sincerely,



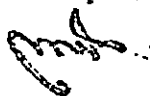
George Bush

Mrs. Richard L. Wood
2212 Rosewood Drive
Waco, Texas 76710

RE
MAR 10 1976
FBI
MAR 10 1976

Memo: Texas 10710
5515 Rosewood Drive
Mrs. Richard L. Moore

George Bush



Sincerely,

Thank you for your letter.

I am very happy to be back
home and we miss it enormously. But this is
every minute of it. I love the
new top is still the best and I'm loving
the press and your kind words of support.

Thank you for your kind words about me!

Best regards,

ER
MAR 4 10 48 AM '76
MAR 4 10 48

Mrs. Richard L. Wood
2212 Rosewood Drive
Waco, Texas 76710

Feb. 26, 1976

Dear Mr. Bush,

I must tell you ~~how well~~ you came across on "Meet the Press" last Sunday, 2/22. Your honesty and candor came through — and I really admired your ability to keep those reporters from putting words in your mouth — from finessing you into saying something that would have made Monday morning's headline.

Having met you several times in Texas, and worked in your Senate campaign, I, along with thousands of other Republicans in Texas, am very aware of your singular talents and capabilities. The country is very fortunate to have a man of your integrity as director of the CIA, but it is also the country's loss that you have been removed from the political arena.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Very sincerely,
Barth Wood

February 27, 1976

Dear Phil,

Thanks for your great letter and your kind words. It sounds to me like you have the best of both worlds, between Scottsdale and Wyoming.

Our son George is out in Midland now, and it gives me great pleasure thinking about that. I wouldn't give anything in the world for the happiness that Barbara and I had out there.

The new job is a tremendous challenge. I like it and have only one major complaint and that is that there are not enough hours in the day.

Thank you for your kind invitation to drop in on you. Someday I'll do it--I feel certain of that.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mr. Phil Yeckel
5640 Scottsdale Road North
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253

PHIL YECKEL
5640 Scottsdale Road North
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85253

22, FEB.

MR. GEORGE BUSH
DIRECTOR CIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Disc take

DEAR GEORGE

JUST FINISHED LISTENING TO YOU ON "MEET THE PRESS".
AFTER HEARING THE PSALM SINGING, MEALY MOUTH LIST OF
DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, YOU CAME ON EXCEED-
INGLY STRONG. I HOPE THAT OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WILL
SOMETIME PERMIT THE ELECTION OF A MAN WHO CAN TELL THE
PEOPLE "HOW IT IS" AND NOT MERELY COME UP WITH A LOT
OF IMPOSSIBLE AND UNWORKABLE PROMISES.

I LIKE TO THINK THAT I HAVE THE ABILITY TO PICK PEOPLE
WITH A BIG POTENTIAL. YEARS AGO, WHEN WE WERE BOTH IN
MIDLAND, I KNEW YOU WERE A FRONT RUNNER IN WHAT EVER
FIELD YOU BECAME INVOLVED. IN CASE YOU HAVE FORGOT, I
ALWAYS CALLED YOU "HONEST GEORGE BUSH, WHO NEVER STOLE
A BOXCAR"

I AM NOT PRONE TO FLATTER ANYONE AND HAVE NO FAVORS
ASK, I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM ONE OF MANY WHO
THINK THAT YOU HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN THE PAST
AND WILL FULFILL ALL EXPECTATIONS IN THE DIFFICULT
ASSIGNMENT THAT YOU HAVE OF RUNNING THE CIA.

WE HAVE A PLACE HERE IN SCOTTSDALE WHERE WE SPEND MOST
OF THE WINTER. I GUESS, I AM WHAT IS CALLED, "SEMI-RETIRED".
STILL HAVE THE RANCH AT BIG HORN, WYO. SPEND A LOT OF
TIME HUNTING AND WORKING WITH HORSES. IF YOU GET NEAR
EITHER LOCATION, WE WOULD ENJOY HAVING YOU VISIT US.

JANE AND I BOTH WISH YOU AND BARBARA A GOOD YEAR.
HANG TOUGH AND RATTLE.

SINCERELY

Phil

ER

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